



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

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TO: Third Grade Teachers
Idaho Elementary Schools

FROM: Les Gieselman, Pharm.D.
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SUBJECT: **Classroom Presentations for POISON PREVENTION WEEK
(March 15-21, 2009)**

Each year the Idaho Poison Center receives more than 16,000 calls related to human poisonings. More than half of these calls are for poisonings among children less than six years old; one and two year olds are at the greatest risk. The most common causes of poisoning are medicines and household products, many of which look like candy, soft drinks, or other harmless substances. Medicines that are brought into homes in the pockets and purses of visiting adults are also a significant cause of childhood poisonings.

Pharmacists statewide are working to prevent poisonings among children by offering **Poison Prevention** presentations to Idaho third graders. Upon request, a pharmacist will come to your third grade classroom and present a half-hour program on common poisons and poison prevention strategies. In addition, brochures, Mr. Yuk® stickers and other information will be provided for each child to take home.

If you are interested in participating in this important event, please contact a pharmacist in your community and ask them to provide a **Poison Prevention** presentation in your classroom.

If you cannot find a pharmacist to do the presentation, please call the Idaho Care Line at 2-1-1 and have the information and materials sent to your school. You can present this information directly to your students and have them share it with their families. **Please allow a minimum of 10 days for shipping and handling.**

Our goal is to educate our children and empower them and their families to do all they can to prevent childhood poisonings. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to help protect the health of our children. Thank You.

Remember, **"Children Act Fast...So Do Poisons!"**